



SENATOR

Mary Margaret Haugen

E-Newsletter - 10th District

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10th Legislative District

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2009 LEGISLATURE — WEEK THREE

Even though there's always plenty going on here in Olympia, some days are more special than others.

Monday was definitely one of those days, as a military band played beneath the rotunda and we passed a [resolution to honor the members of the Washington National Guard](#).

More than 8,000 men and woman of the Washington National Guard serve the country as guardians of American interests at home and abroad, and answer our state's call to protect lives in natural emergencies and disasters — including the most recent winter storm recovery efforts throughout the state.

I — and all of my colleagues — are proud to offer our thanks and appreciation to the members of the Washington National Guard, and also to their devoted families and dedicated employers without whom the Guard's missions could not be successful.

FIXING A BIRD-BRAINED LAW

Did you know that a 2003 law says a small farm can sell 1,000 chickens a year directly to consumers, but that they can't sell turkeys?

When I heard that, I thought it was kind of silly — so I've worked with the Northwest Agriculture Business Center and the Washington Department of Agriculture to sponsor [Senate Bill 5350](#) to allow the producers of other kinds of poultry such as turkeys and ducks to be eligible for the same permit that allows sales from small producers directly to the public, which provides a local market for producers and gives consumers access to a fresh locally-grown product.

The bill was heard by the [Senate Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development](#) on Wednesday.

A GOOD CATCH FOR ALL

The laws covering commercial fishing in Washington are complicated — not only are there regulations about where and when you can catch certain kinds of fish, there are even rules about who fishermen can sell their catch to!

Many commercial fishers in our state don't operate under their own commercial fishing license — instead, as a small operation, they operate as an “alternate operator” under the holder of a valid commercial license.

The catch is that “alternate operators” cannot sell their catch directly to the public — even though they are often the kinds of smaller operations that only fish a few times a year and want to sell a few fish to friends and neighbors in their community.

When former 10th Legislative District **Rep. Dave Anderson** brought this to my attention, I got to work on a [Senate Bill 5356](#) to allow an “alternate operator” who is designated on a commercial fishing license to purchase the “Direct Retail Endorsement” necessary to legally sell directly to the public.

This is another “cost nothing, do something” idea that benefits everyone — smaller fishing operations get to expand their markets, and the rest of us have another source of fresh local seafood!

FIRST BILL TO PASS THE SENATE MAKES THE FIRST ROUND OF BUDGET CUTS

This week, the Senate unanimously passed [Senate Bill 5460](#), a measure that takes the first of many steps to [cut the state budget](#). The bill reduces administrative budgets of legislative and judicial agencies by 4.4 percent to save \$105 million over the few months left in the current two-year budget cycle.

This bill would, in part, extend the state hiring freeze, eliminate salary increases for the state's exempt and management employees, would greatly curtail travel budgets and put new limits on equipment purchases. It now heads to the House of Representatives for their consideration.

It's critical that this bill makes it to the governor's desk and be signed into law so we can start achieving these savings as soon as possible. Every dollar we save today is a dollar we don't have to cut from education or children's health care tomorrow.

CLEAN AND GREEN JOBS

This week, we [unveiled](#) our [“Clean Energy, Green Jobs”](#) package. Some of the fastest-growing opportunities for economic prosperity are in the green energy sector. Lead by [Sen. Phil Rockefeller](#), our effort will lower energy costs for consumers, provide training and jobs for unemployed workers, and create high-demand 21st century jobs in the clean energy sector.

National leaders like [Van Jones](#), founder and president of [Green For All](#), have brought focus and attention to our efforts. Jones spoke at the [Environment, Water & Energy Committee](#) on Friday about clean energy jobs and how to bring the benefits of renewable energy to disadvantaged communities. He urges us to [make our economic breakdown into a breakthrough](#), including people previously left out of economic prosperity. The green wave, he said, can lift all boats.

U.S HOUSE PASSES FEDERAL STIMULUS : THE POSSIBLE IMPACT FOR WASHINGTON

Overcoming our economic challenges will require bold action at the state and federal level. The \$819 billion economic stimulus package passed recently by the U.S. House of Representatives could provide Washington with [more than \\$1 billion in special budget assistance](#).

In total, our state could receive \$3.5 billion [to \\$4.5 billion](#) in federal funding for job training, health care assistance, unemployment benefits and infrastructure projects to help stimulate our economy. The Senate is working on its own stimulus plan and could also include money for cash-strapped K-12 public schools.

VISITORS

Have I ever mentioned how much I love it when people from our community come to visit Olympia?

I can't mention everyone who comes to visit each week — but I also can't pass up the chance to share a photo of more than 100 fourth-graders from Utsalady Elementary who joined me on the floor of the Senate this week!



Sen. M



Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen and page Andrew Teijen. 20090128-0398 WASENATE ab



Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen and page Emma Wendt. 20090128-0396 WASENATE ab

I also had the opportunity to host two local students who participated in the Senate Page Program this week: Andrew Teijen and Emma Wendt.

Andrew is a 9th grade student at Mount Vernon High School.

Emma is a home-schooled 9th grade student whose family has a home in Oak Harbor, but is currently residing at Fort Lewis while her father is serving in Iraq.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

My executive assistant Nova Gattman, legislative assistant Gina Bull and intern Beau Perschbacher are available to provide constituent services to the people of our community, so please feel free to contact us with questions or concerns whether they involve bills before the Legislature or topics you feel are being overlooked.

You can reach me by [e-mail](#) or call my office in Olympia at **360-786-7618**. If you have a concern, I want to hear it.

In the meantime, please visit my [webpage](#) for up-to-date info on what's happening at the Legislature.

Until next week — Take Care!

Thank you for reading my email newsletter. I appreciate your interest in the legislative process. If at any time you decide you no longer wish to receive updates from me, please go to <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/subscriptions/member.aspx?member=haugenm> to remove your name from the list.

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